

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

---

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A method of managing a secure terminal used for transactions with smart cards, comprising:

- placing a smart card in contact with the terminal,
- executing a program by the terminal, this program including sensitive operations related to making the transactions secure,
- counting the number of times a request is made to the terminal to execute sensitive operations, and
- restricting the action of this terminal when this count reaches a predetermined value.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- providing the terminal with a removable electronic security circuit, and
- counting in this circuit the number of requests for sensitive operations which are made to it or sensitive operations executed by it.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

- dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes, and



establishing a count for each class.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as executing a sensitive operation, performing a mutual identification procedure between the terminal and the card.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication (PIN) of a carrier of the smart card.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the counter is re-initialized by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.



Claim 10 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein for restricting, only some of the operations of the planned transaction are prevented.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented) A security circuit for implementing the method according to claim 1, wherein the management means is capable of:

identifying and counting requests coming from outside and

restricting its functions as soon as the count reaches a predetermined

number.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2, further comprising:

dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes and

establishing a count for each class.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

as executing a sensitive operation, performing a mutual identification

procedure between the terminal and the card.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 14, further comprising:



as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication (PIN) of a carrier of the smart card.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card.

B1  
Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the a counter is re-initialized by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the a counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13, wherein for restricting, only some of the operations of the planned transaction are prevented.



Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A security circuit for implementing the method according to claim 13, wherein the management means is capable of:

identifying and counting requests coming from outside and

restricting its functions as soon as ~~the count~~ one of the counters reaches a predetermined number.

B1  
Claim 23 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein ~~the~~ a counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein for restricting, only some of the operations of the planned transaction are prevented.

---